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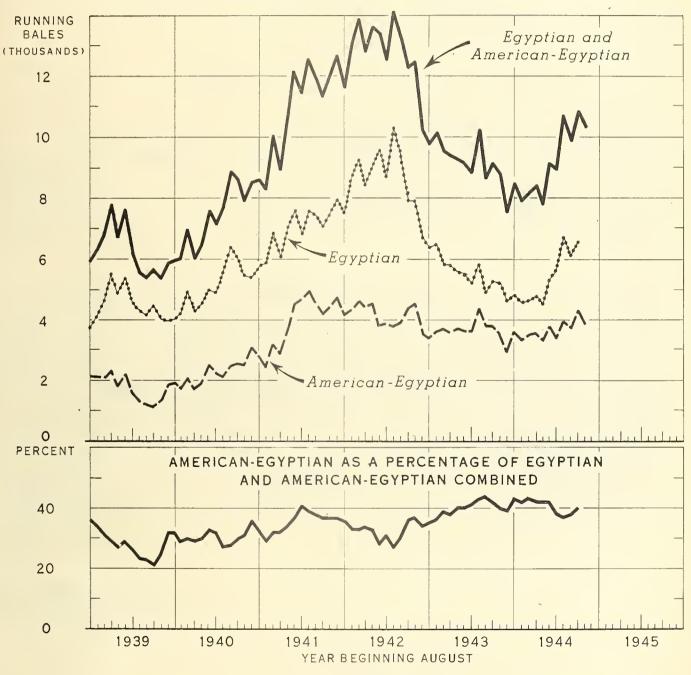
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CS - 104



JULY 1945

CONSUMPTION OF AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN AND EGYPTIAN COTTON IN THE UNITED STATES, BY MONTHS, AUGUST 1939 TO DATE



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 45409 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Although the current level of consumption of extra-long staple cotton in the United States is some one-fourth under the peak level reached in 1942-43, it is, nevertheless, well above the level during the earlier part of the current season. Most of this recent increase has been in the consumption of imported Egyptian cotton. The consumption of American-Egyptian cotton, although slightly higher than earlier in the season, has, nevertheless, been trending generally downward since the 1941-42 season.

THE COTTON SITUATION

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- July 18, 1945

THE DOMESTIC COTTON SITUATION

Cotton Prices at Season High

During the month ended July 15, the price of Middling 15/16 inch cotton in the 10 markets fluctuated within a range of 44 points (between 22.38 cents and 22.82 cents per pound). The level of 22.82 cents on Friday, July 13, equalled the previous high for the season established about a month earlier. The average price for the month ended July 15 was 22.62 cents or 9 points below the average for the preceding monthly period.

The farm price of cotton in June was 20.90 cents per pound, about one-third of a cent higher than in May. The June price was, nevertheless, 3 percent under the June parity price of 21.45 cents per pound. This parity price is equivalent to the price of Middling 15/16 inch cotton in Memphis of 22.50 cents and the price in the 10 markets of 22.61 cents per pound.

Consumption for Season

Continues Equivalent to
About 9.7 Million Bales

For the season to date (August through June) the consumption of cotton in the United States is at an annual rate of 9,698,000 bales. At no time during the preceding 6 months has the annual rate for the season to date been further from this figure than 65,000 bales. Consumption in June totaled 786,063 bales, and the total for the 11 months was 8,903,000 bales. This 11-month total is 3.4 percent less than the 11-month total of 9,220,000 bales a year earlier.

The general level of cotton consumption has been influenced primarily during the past few years by the labor situation in cotton mills. Cotton manufacturing has one of the lowest average wage levels of any important industry. Even though average hourly earnings have risen materially during the war period, cotton manufacturers have been confronted with a very high turn-over of labor, and the net decline in average employment since the peak was reached in December 1942 was about 20 percent. The recent increase in basic wage rates authorized for a few mills by the National War Labor Board has been extended to a large number of mills, and cutbacks in other lines of war production as well as the discharging of service personnel will tend to ease the tight labor situation in cotton mills. Nevertheless, it is not expected that textile employment will undergo any particular increase for some little time, and the prevailing scarcity of cotton textiles in retail establishments is unlikely to be alleviated until sometime in 1946 at the earliest.

Staple Cotton Has Risen
During the Current Season

Now that the consumption of imported Egyptian cotton is no longer concealed in accordance with security regulations, it is possible to note that the trend in the consumption of extra-long staple cotton has been upward during most of the current season and that consumption has recently been the highest since the early summer of 1943. Although the consumption of American Egyptian cotton has been gradually upward this season, the bulk of the rise has occurred in imported Egyptian. Nevertheless, the consumption of American Egyptian has averaged close to 40 percent of the combined consumption of imported Egyptian and American-Egyptian for something like a year and a half.

Exports Running Above 1943-44 Annual Rate

The lifting of the ban on the publication of export data on cotton permits a fuller appraisal of our exports in recent years, than has been the case since Pearl Harbor. During the first 8 months of the current season exports from the United States totaled about 1,020,000 bales (all export figures in this report are in running bales). This is slightly higher than the same period last season, when exports totaled 851,399 bales. In recent preceding seasons, exports ranged from a low of 1,112,000 in 1940 to a high of 1,480,000 bales in 1942. These compare with a 1934-38 average of 5,027,000 bales and a 1939 total of 6,192,000. In 1939, 1941, and again this season, the lovel of exports was higher than otherwise would have been the case, as a result of special export payment programs which were or are in operation.

Through March 1945, exports this season included 443,000 bales to the United Kingdom, 281,000 bales to Canada, and 178,000 bales to Spain. During the past 4 full seasons, exports to the United Kingdom have ranged from a low of 420.000 bales in 1940 to a high of 1,017,000 bales in 1942. Exports to Canada ranged from 172,000 bales in 1940 to 322,000 in 1942, and exports to Spain from zero in 1940 and 1941 to 179,000 bales in 1943. Exports to Europe during the 5 years 1934-38 totaled 3,391,000 bales, or 67 percent of the total exports from this country. In 1939, exports to Europe totaled 4,243,000 bales or 69 percent of the total. During the past 4 years, exports to Europe have ranged between 633,000 and 1,127,000, only a fairly small percentage of their prewar level, but such exports have constituted 70 percent of the total exports of cotton from the United States.

The resumption of cotton consumption by those mills on the Continent of Europe which have up until recently been under Axis domination is highly desirable from various standpoints. The need for cotton textiles probably would not be challenged from any quarter, and the tight cotton textile situation in other countries precludes there being an adequate exportable surplus of cotton textiles to fulfill the needs of liberated areas.

The same, however, is by no means true so far as raw cotton is concerned Currently, the world carry-over of cotton is the highest on record, and virtually all of this carry-over is under Allied control. Although some qualitie are more abundant than others, supplies are fully adequate to meet all essential civilian and military textile needs. Such information as is now available indicates that such processing machinery as is in working condition in liberated countries constitutes a very large percentage of the prewar textile plant capacity. Considering the fact that the average hours of operation were somewhat less than capacity in the prewar period, it is believed that the existing mills, by lengthening their hours of operation, could produce about as many cotton textiles as were produced before the war. In most instances, labor also is available. The more common obstacle to production appears to be the tight fuel situation, which deprives many mills of adequate power on which to operate, and which also has retarded the reconstruction of internal transportation. Nevertheless, many of these cotton mills, which during the war years have operated almost exclusively on synthetic fibers, principally rayon staple fiber, can reasonably be expected to resume operation on cotton. In view of the existence of the United States export program, American cotton should be in a position to successfully compete with other growths for such European markets as are reopened.

Recent Changes in Government Stocks

Through July 7, the Commodity Credit Corporation had received notes covering 2,113,892 bales of 1944 crop cotton under its 1944 cotton loan program. Of this quantity, approximately 915,000 bales had been redeemed by producers, leaving 1,198,969 bales of 1944 crop cotton under loan as of that date. Also outstanding were loans on 1,163,150 bales of 1943 crop cotton. Under its 1944 purchase program, the Corporation had purchased 2,450,650 bales of 1944 crop cotton. Since a part of this has already been offered for sale, it is likely that the quantity remaining in Government stocks as of July 7 will be somewhat less. In addition to the above quantities of 1943 crop and 1944 crop cotton, the Commodity Credit Corporation also owned substantial quantities of 1934 crop and 1937 crop cotton, and held in pools for producer's account additional cotton from crops of 1941 and 1942. Some of this owned and pooled cotton, had been allocated for Lend-Lease, UNRRA, and the armed forces. The unallocated cotton is mostly available for sale under both the export and the domestic sales programs.

On July 13 it was announced that the Commodity Credit Corporation will continue to carry 1944 cotton loans, with the producer having the right of repayment after the maturity date of the notes on July 31,1945. The loans will be carried in past due status for an indefinite period, subject to call by the Corporation. This will permit producers to repay their loans and obtain possession of the pledged cotton or to sell their equity in the cotton after July 31,1945, in the same manner as prior to the maturity date of the notes. Previously the CCC had announced that it would pool for producers account, as of August 1, 1945, all unredeemed cotton in the 1943 loan program. After pooling, this cotton will be made available for sale by the Corporation on the same basis as applies to other pooled stocks.

Commodity Credit Corporation Moves to Liquidate Its Stocks Of American-Egyptian Cotton

On July 7 the Commodity Credit Corporation announced that it still held 21,225 bales of American-Egyptian cotton acquired under its 1942 and 1943 purchase programs, of which about 16,000 bales were Grades #2-1/2 and #3. Indicating its desire to liquidate such cotton, it was announced that the Corporation would receive bids. The Corporation, however, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Trend in Farm Wage Rates Continues Upward

Reflecting a combination of the generally tight farm labor situation and the profitability of farming, the wage rates for hired agricultural labor have continued to rise. The United States average of farm wage rates without board on July 1 was \$4.48 per day. This compares with \$4.06 a year ago, \$3.34 two years ago, \$2.45 three years ago, and between \$1.59 and \$1.98 per day during the 5 preceding years. The wage rates for July 1, 1945, were from 20 cents to 70 cents higher than a year earlier in all of the principal cotton-producing States except Arizona, where the rate was the same as in 1944. In all of the principal cotton-producing States as well as the United States as a whole, farm wage rates were as high or higher than the previous all-time record for the respective areas.

Acreage of Cotton in Short-Staple Areas Greatly Reduced in 1945

On the basis of the July Cotton Report, it appears that the acreage of cotton in areas which normally produce very short-staple cotton will be materially smaller than last year. Of the total reduction -- 2 million acres from 1944 to 1945, approximately half occurred in Texas, largely as a result of extreme drought in the northwestern part of the State. In grade and staple district 1 in the very northwestern part of Texas, 84 percent of the cotton had a staple length shorter than 15/16 inch during the 3 years 1940-42, and in grade and staple districts 2 and 3, which lie to the east of district 1, about 61 percent of the cotton had a shorter staple length than 15/16 inch. Although small by comparison with the 954,000 acre reduction in Texas, other sizable reductions were in Arkansas, 171,000; North Carolina, 170,000; Oklahoma, 149,000; Missouri, 140,000; and Georgia, 118,000. The largest percentage reduction, 34 percent, occurred in Missouri; while North Carolina declined 22 percent, Texas 13 percent, and Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma declined from 8 to 10 percent each. The irrigated States were the only ones which showed as increase in acreage from last year, ranging from 4,000 to 16,000 acres or 3 to 6 percent.

Total cotton acreage as of July 1 was estimated at 18,355,000 acres. This is 2.0 million acres or 9.8 percent less than in 1944. Should acreage abandonment be in line with the 10-year average of 1.8 percent, the acreage remaining for harvest would be the smallest of any year since 1885. In addition to the decline in Texas which, as noted above, was largely attributable to very dry weather in the northwestern part of the State, excessive and continued rainfall during the spring interfered with planting operations in the Delta States. The sharp reduction from last year also reflects the difficulties experienced in securing adequate labor.

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Table 2.- Cotton: Exports from the United States to specified countries, average 1934-38, and annual 1939-44

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beginning Ar	1941		Dales	0.	C	0	0	0	0	0.	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	1.50	0	0	33,037	7,729		791,264	1_	0	217,528		15,918	101
Year be		Running	nales 	0	0	0	0	0	25,744	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	375	o		•		_	79°, 62°, °C	632, 565	1,000	171,939	2, 1	93,866	1,111,897
	1939 1/	Running	nares	199,899	819	0	25.784	5,011	ณ์	724,025	-	10,618	16,090	542,400	4,234	200	159,876		5,253		3,398			39,363		1,904,8//	4, 242, 999		≠	08:	124,245	•
	1934-38 :	Running	150	137,235	1,831	60,819	32,388	10,059	32,441	552,541	546,452	2,258	1, 290	406,592	6,226	193	79,309	1.2,259	203,013	35,993	1,250	93,128	26,937	2,195	22,	. 000,640,1 0 300	-	1,2,1,26	251,086	53,421	67,108	5,027,281
Country	of designation :		Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria:	Czechoslovakia:	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Wetherlands	Norway	Poland and Danzig .:	Portugal	Rumania	Spain	Streden	ы	Kepublics:	Vulted Aingdom	Total Europe	Z,	Canada	•	Other countries:	Total all countries:

Table 3.- Registered sales under the 1944 Cotton Export Program and price comparison between American and Brazilian cotton by weeks, 1944-45

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
		Sales_	registered	Price		on 1/
Weel	_		-	:M. 15/16"		e 5 at
ended		During week	: Total to date		·	:Amt. below
Ciraco		builing week	:	: New Orleans	Actual	
		h in the graph of	:	:	:	:New Orleans
		Bales	Bales	Cents	Cents	Cents
Nov.				21.20	14.65	6,55
11	29	12,700	12,700	21.20	14.41	6.79
Dec.	6	10,225	22,925	21.25	14.32	6.93
11	12	19,704	42,629	21.30	14.32	6.98
11	18	15,674	58,303	21.40	14.24	7:16
11		7,146	65,449	21.40	13.99	7.41
11	30 :	65,900	131,349	21.55	14.16	7-39
-	:	7 72 7 222	alia alia	07 (0	-1, 01,	1
Jan.	6:	18,000	149,349	21.60	14.24	7.36
11	20	7,930 1,300	157,279 158,579	21.65 21.50	14.16 14.16	7.49 7.34
11	27	25,602	184,181	21.15	14.24	6.91
	, ' ;			, .	1	
Feb.	3 :	18,800	202,981	21.25	13.91	7. 34
11	10 :	8,400	211,381	21.25	13.58	7.67
11	17 :	4,100	215,481	21.55	13.25	8.30-
	24 :	5,253	220,734	21.45	13.42	8.03
Mar.	3:	4 17; 277;	238,011	21.55	13,42	8.13
11	10:	9,516	247,527	21.55	13.50	8.05
H	17 :	39,236	286,763	21.55	13.50	8.05
11	24 :	40,200	326,963	21.60	13.50	8.10
"	31	6,612	, , 333, 575	21.50		
Apr.	7	11,600	345,175	21.60	13.66	7.94
ĪI	14	2,312	347,487	,21.85		1 • 7 •
1t	21 :	54,250	401,737	22.05	13.75	8.30
11	28	21,850	423,587	22.20	13.75	8.45
16		7), 720).Ed 007	00 75		
May	5 :	34,710 33,460	458,297.	22.35	13.75	8.60
11	19	7,950	491,757 499,707	22 . 30 22,45	13.91	8.39 7.80
n	26	9,800	509,507	22.55	14.90	7.65
					-, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -, -	1000
June	2 :	1,520	511,027	22.55	14.65	7.90
- 11 ti	9	630.	511,657	22.65	15.06	7.59
ti ti	16:	31,188	-542,845		14.90	7.75
- 11	23 . :	1;635 3,550	544,480 548,030	22.50°°° 22.35	14.82	7.68
			, 0,00	دد. ا	10	0),
July	.7	4,031	552,061	22.40	14.73	7.67
	_ '				_	

1/ Prices on Friday preceding date shown. During the 4 weeks preceding the Export program Middling 15/16 inch cotton at New Orleans averaged 21.30 cents per pound and type 5 at Sao Paulo averaged 14.69 cents per pound—giving a spread of 6.1 cents per pound.

Table 4.- Wage rates per day without board, on July 1, principal cotton-growing States and United States, 1923-45

U. S.	Dol.					2.28		1.68	.19	.10	.27	• 35	74.	99.	.63	. 59		1.98					
1	! 					55 55 88												35 1					Labor
Calif	Dol	7,0	7	3.6	3.6	ري ري ري ري		2.80									<i>c\$</i>	7.3	4.5	ቱ 9	7.3	7.8	arm
Ariz.	Dol.	った	9	9	3	2.53	Ľ	2.15	5	3	9	8	9	0	0	\vdash	2.13	2.30	3.00	4.55	5.10	5.10	1945 国
Mex.		00	-		5	00	c	0	0	0	0	5	0	ال ال	0	2		96					July 1
Z Z	Do1					& & %		1.50								•		1.9				•	the J
Tex.	Dol.	1.86	1.85	2.00	1.80	1.85		1.3		.90	•					•		1.60				•	and
Okla.		97	25	01	15	20 05	C	35	00	00	50	200	35	52	9	55						85	1943,
0		ri d	เล่	ณ่	તાં	വ വ	_	-	<u>_</u>	1.	ri	٦.	۲.	~i	٦	۲	H	٦,	ิณ๋	, ,	⇒	æ•	annary
La.	Do 1.	1.46	1.50	1.60	1.55	1.45		1.05	•	80	07.	. 90	.95	1.05	1.00	1.05	1.05	1.15	1.35	1.85	2.40	2.70	Jani
Ark.	101.	68 63	.65	9.	.55	1.50	Γ.	1.05	.70	.75	96.	.90	.95	.10	.05	.05	.05	. 20	9.	. 20	99.	0;	Data
•• ••	AI													-				_					ated
Mo	Do 1.					2.15	ر د ار	1.65	1.20	1.05	1.10	1.25	1.40	1.70	1.50	1.50		1.90					d Rel
Miss.	Do 1.	10.10	١٢	5	5		7	9.75		9	/	∞	00	0	9	6	•			•	•		t, an
	А					- H		4						r-!	. ~			-					oymen
Tenn	Do 1	الدرية	. T	9.	5	1.50		1.15	•		. 90			•		•	0	1.20		6.	· .	٥	rm Emplo
A1a.	Dol.	•	• •	•			•	 					.85	.95		.90	. 85	00	W.	1.85	S.	9	Farm
						100				0	10	_	_	10		0	0						res,
Ga	Dol	•	• •			1.35		96					.80	.9	80		96.	1.00	1.29	1.70	2.15	2.20	Agricultura
0	Dol.	SO K	, T.	~·	3		_	80	5	5	02.	02.	.75	.80	.85	08.		.95	•	•	•	•	Agri
						10 O				10	0	10	0	0	0	0		10) 1			n Farm
2	Dol	0.0	, a	6	00	1.85	L	1.15	00	1	1.00	0	_	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.35	1.70	2.30	2.70	0.4	from
1 4		Σ.	10		:		•••	• ••		3	+					6		••	01	3	 _+		piled ort,
Year	-	92	97	92	92	1928	, ,	1931	10	5	9	9	9	9	9	9	6	1941	0	9	9	9	Compi Repor

Table 5.. Cotton acreage in cultivation on July 1, United States, average 1928-32, and 1934-38, annual 1939-45

average ent 1935-44	unas and a second	
10-year a		•
1945 1,000 acres	270 1,020 1,250 1,360 1,360 1,375 6,400 1,375 1,	18,3
1944 1,000	1,089 1,368 1,368 1,368 1,801 1,524 7,354 1,524 1,524	20,354
1943 1,000 acres	275 1,148 1,627 1,534 7,915 1,554 1,554 1,554 1,554 1,554 1,554	21, 342
1942 1,000 acres	450 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 110 1	23,302
1941 1,000 acres	8128 11,021 11,021 11,021 11,021 11,021 11,035 11,0	23,130
1940 1,000 acres	2,658 1,268 1,981 2,037 2,658 2,658 1,199 1,900 8,873 2,873 2,873 2,873 2,873 2,873	24,871
1939 1,000 acres	380 1,248 1,989 1,197 1,154 1,355 1,	24,683
:1934-38 :average 1,000 acres	398 1,410 2,275 2,275 2,302 2,303 11,132 11,132 11,132 11,132	
1928-32 average 1,000 acres	379 1,449 1,915 3,218 3,416 3,416 3,454 3,869 16,049 126	:41,423
State	Missouri Virginia N. Carolina S. Carolina Georgia Tennessee Alabama Mississippi Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas Wew Mexico Arizona California	t c

Compiled from reports of the Crop Reporting Board

Table 6.- STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	Unit	: 1944		1945		Pct.of
Item	or base	Turne	A 10.00	. Vorr	Tuno	year
	period	June	Apr.	May	June	ago 1/
		:				
Prices:	1	:				
Middling 15/16-inch, 10 markets	Cent	: 21.52	22.12	22.58		105
Farm, United States		: .20.16				104
Parity		: 21.08				102
Farm, percentage of parity:	Percent	: 96	94	96	97	101
Premium of 1-1/8-inch over		:				
basis 2/:		:				
Memphi's		: 445	435	430	405	91
Carolina "B" mill area:		: 620	600	581	573	92
SxP, New England mill points 3/ .:		: 51.50	52.00	51.88	51.25	100
Cloth, 17 constructions		: 40.62	42.32	42.32	42.32	104
Mill margin, 17 constructions:	Cent	: 19.28	20.48	20.02	19.92	103
Cottonseed, farm price	Dollar	: 52.80	51.90	52.10	52.50	99
Cottonseed, parity:	Dollar	: 38.30	39.00	39.00	39.00	102
Cottonseed, farm, pct. of parity.:	Percent	: 138	133	134	135	97
Consumption:		:				
All kinds during month, total:	1,000 bales	:805.8	769.7	830.6	786.1	98
All kinds cumulative, total:	1,000 bales	: 9,220	7,286	8,117	8,903	97
All kinds per day, total:	Bale	:36,628	37,242	36,914	37,432	102
All kinds, annual rate	Million bales	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.6	102
American-Egyptian cotton, total:	Bale	: 3,531	•	_	3,859	109
American-Egyptian, cumulative:	Bale	:40,842	32,240	36,550	40,409	99
Foreign dotton, total	Bale	: 9,271	10,295	11,873	11,393	123
Foreign cotton, cumulative:	Bale	:105,656	85,560	97,433	108,826	103
Stocks, end of month:		:				
Consuming establishments:					2,046	103
Public storage and compresses:	1,000 bales	: 8,853	11,026	10,133	9,195	104
Total 4/						104
Egyptian cotton, total 4/						89
American-Egyptian cotton, total4/:	Bale	:55,183	42,207	37,671	34,805	63
Index numbers:		:				
Cotton consumption			143	142	144	102
Prices paid, interest, and taxes :	1910-14 = 100	170	173	, 173	173	102

^{1/} Applies to last month for which data are available.

 $[\]overline{2}$ / Premiums for Middling 1-1/8-inch based on near active month futures at New York. $\overline{3}$ / SxP, No. 2 1-1/2-inch, New England mill points.

^{4/} Includes only stocks in mills and public storage and at compresses. Compiled from official sources.

